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iNACOL Supports President Obama's American Graduation Initiative

Vienna, VA, July 16, 2009– The International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) applauds President Obama for his plans to support online courses.

President Obama delivered a speech outlining the new American Graduation Initiative: Stronger American Skills through Community Colleges, which included plans to commit \$50 million for the development of open online courses for community colleges. According to the White House Press Secretary, “New open online courses will create new routes for students to gain knowledge, skills and credentials.”

iNACOL strongly supports the move to increase support for online learning and Open Educational Resources (OER) from the Administration. Susan Patrick, President and CEO of iNACOL said, “In tough economic times, the planned investment for developing open online courses will allow schools to adapt and share high-quality course materials. The targeted investments are long-lasting and create new options for students by expanding course offerings and online dual enrollment courses at high schools, improving remedial and adult education programs and offering students more personalized education plans.”

Investments in education and online learning plays an important role in turning around the nation's economy and providing new, high-quality educational options for today's students regardless of geography. As proposed, the courses will be freely available for use as-is and for adaptation as appropriate for targeted student populations and will carry a Creative Commons license.

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About iNACOL

iNACOL is the International Association for K-12 Online Learning, a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership association based in the Washington, DC area with more than 2,500 members. iNACOL is unique in that its members represent a diverse cross-section of K-12 education from school districts, charter schools, state education agencies, non-profit organizations, colleges, universities and research institutions, corporate entities and other content and technology providers (www.inacol.org). iNACOL hosts the annual Virtual School Symposium (VSS). VSS 2009 will be held Nov. 15 – 17, 2009 in Austin, TX (www.virtualschoolsymposium.org).